

Joe Perry, 51, plays guitar with Aerosmith. He lives in Duxbury with his wife, Billie, and their sons, Tony, 15, and Roman, 10.

How different are the Perrys from the Osbournes?

Ozzy goes on the road and the kids stay home. We all go. We home-school our kids. My wife and I decided when we got married that if we had kids, the most important thing was our relationship, and part of that is staying together. I didn't fall in love with her to say goodbye every three weeks. In a lot of ways, we're like a normal family. We're just really tight. The big difference is the tour bus rolls up here about a week before the tour starts, and we all start throwing our stuff on, and then we're gone.

Is it difficult to maintain structure for your children on the road?

We're kind of particular about where they go, and we keep a tight rein on them. They see how hard I work outside of the band. They know it isn't all gravy.

Do all the neighbors' kids try to have sleepovers at your house?

No, but we've had our share of them, believe me. The kids that [Tony's] hanging around with seem to be pretty level.

Have you made many friends in town?

Most of my relationships are on the phone. We don't really have that many friends around. Now that the kids are getting out, we're starting to meet more parents locally.

Lots of people your age wrestle with what to tell their children about past recreational drug use. Your troubled history is in the public domain. Does that make it more difficult?

It's such ancient history that I don't know if they can relate. It's almost like two different lifetimes. When somebody does die, like Dee Dee [Ramone], with a syringe on the counter, we make a big deal of it, because Steven [Tyler] and I are the worst examples of why not to do drugs.



After being on the skids for so long and then to bounce back, there's always the argument: "Well, Dad, you survived it."

Why do you live in Duxbury?

We came down to look at some property and fell in love with it because of its proximity to the city and being so close to the ocean. We travel so much that when we come here it's such a great haven.

Do local folks respect your privacy?

People don't run up to me all the time to try and get autographs. They're really great. I feel as if I could just be anybody.

How much of an influence is your wife on musical and business decisions?

Big. I don't have her instincts. She's great at reading people. I hand a lot of the business to her. I just make the money.

Do you ever play her songs you're working on?

All the time.

Is she diplomatic?

No, she'll tell me if she doesn't like it. One time she told me, "If you played me this and I didn't know you, I'd never go out with you." — *Mark Pothier*